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Message Text

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PAGE 01 HALIFA 00282 061942Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02
TRSE-00 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 ITC-01 /166 W
----------087135 062108Z /73
P R 061910Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2190
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0282

E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS CA US
SUBJECT: SUSPENSION OF INTERIM FISHING AGREEMENT:
FURTHER REACTIONS

1. INTEREST IN SO-CALLED FISH WAR REMAINS HIGH IN HALIFAX. JUNE 6 CHRONICLE-HERALD FEATURED THREE SEPARATE FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES ON DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF US-CANADIAN FISHERIES DIFFERENCES AS WELL AS AN EDITORIAL ON THE OP-ED PAGE INSIDE. EDITORIAL WAS FOR THE MOST PART AN EVENHANDED RECOUNTING OF THE MAIN ISSUES SEPARATING THE TWO COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO BOUNDARIES DELINEATION AND FISHERIES POLICIES. BOTH THE EDITORIAL AND ONE OF THE FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES, HOWEVER, LINKED THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE US COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON FISH TO THE FISH WAR, WITH IMPLICATION THAT USG MIGHT USE THREAT OF COUNTER-VAILING DUTIES AS A LEVER TO WIN MORE FAVORABLE TERMS IN ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS ON A LONG-TERM FISHERIES AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH PAPER DID PRINT EXTRACTS OF STATEMENTS BY EXTAFF MINISTER JAMIESON AND FISHERIES
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MINISTER LEBLANC TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY WERE CONFIDENT THAT THE COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ISSUE IS NOT LINKED TO THE FISH WAR ISSUES, MEDIA HERE TEND TO ASSUME THAT THERE IS A LINKAGE.

2. PAGE TWO ARTICLE MENTIONED A FISH WAR DISCUSSION BETWEEN NS PREMIER REGAN AND MAINE GOVERNOR LONGLEY IN

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WHICH THEY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN CONTINUING FRIENDSHIP
AND IN WHICH REGAN STATED HE AND NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS
WOULD DOUBTLESS DISCUSS FISH WAR AT UPCOMING NEW HAMPSHIRE
MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS AND EASTERN CANADIAN
PREMIERS. ANOTHER PAGE TWO ARTICLS REFERRED TO TELEPHONE
CONFERENCE CALL JUNE 5 BETWEEN FISHERIES MINISTERS OF NB,
NS, AND NFLD (HALIFAX 0279 NOTAL) AND SAID THE THREE
MINISTERS "WHOLEHEARTEDLY" VOICED SUPPORT OF THE GOC ACTION
IN SUSPENDING THE INTERIM FISHERIES AGREEMENT.

3. COMMENT: DID THE NFLD AND NS FISHERIES MINISTERS
REALLY TELL THE NB FISHERIES MINISTER TO "COOL IT"
WHEN HE CALLED FOR THE SHOW OF SOLIDARITY? ACCORDING
TO OUR NFLD INFORMANT (WHO IS IN A POSITION TO KNOW),
THEY DID. ACCORDING TO NS FISHERIES MINISTER DAN
REID, HOWEVER, HE AND NFLD'S WALTER CARTER HAD CERTAIN
RESERVATIONS BUT THEY BOTH TOLD NB FISHERIES MINISTER
OMER LEGER TO GO AHEAD AND MAKE A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF
THE THREE OF THEM. WHICH VERSION OF EVENTS IS THE
MORE ACCURATE? YOU PAYS YOUR MONEY AND YOU TAKES
YOUR CHOICE, BUT ON BALANCE REID'S VERSION SOUNDS THE
MORE LIKELY.

4. IN GIVING ME HIS VERSION OF EVENTS VIS-A-VIS THE
CONFERENCE CALL, REID RATHER VOLUBLY MADE THE POINT
THAT THE JOINT STATEMENT SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS
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ANTAGONISTIC TOWARD THE US. AND IN THE EVENT THAT
LEGER'S STATEMENT MIGHT BE VIEWED AS PRETTY BLUNT, REID
HAD AN EXPLANATION: "WELL, YOU KNOW, OMER'S PRETTY
EXCITABLE."
END COMMENT

MOORE

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